



The Florida House of Representatives

Chris Sprowls
Speaker

NEWS RELEASE

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House Speaker Touts Election Bill to Increase Ballot Security, Voter Accessibility and Transparency

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (March 18, 2021) — Florida House Speaker Chris Sprowls, R-Palm Harbor, highlighted election legislation noticed today that would build on the success of Florida's 2020 elections and increase ballot security, maintain accessibility for voters, and improve transparency in our voting processes.

"By all accounts, Florida's elections last year ran smoothly, and we're looking to improve on our successes," said Speaker Sprowls. "Florida has come a long way since the 2000 election cycle. Our progress is a result of consistent work to ensure that our elections processes are the best in the nation – we cannot stop now. This PCB will ensure Florida's ballots remain secure, the election process remains transparent, and that access is maintained for all eligible voters who want to vote."

The Proposed Committee Bill (PCB) from the Public Integrity & Elections Committee will maintain ballot drop box locations and work to improve ballot security via required monitoring by Supervisor of Elections personnel or law enforcement officers, or video cameras in certain instances. In order to continue combating fraud and abuse, the bill prohibits automatic mass distribution of vote-by-mail ballots. It also requires requests for vote-by-mail ballots during each general election cycle.

"We must have confidence in our elections from start to finish and this bill will help build trust in our process," said Public Integrity & Elections Chair Erin Grall, R-Vero Beach. "Ballot security, transparency and accessibility are critical elements to a system that people can trust and want to participate in."

"Only by continual reform to safeguard our election process will Florida continue to be a national leader in elections," said sponsor Representative Blaise Ingoglia, R-Spring Hill. "In recent years, Floridians have

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come to expect unassailable election protocols – and in turn we owe them only the best. Now is not the time to rest on our laurels.”

The PCB also aims to reduce potential interference from outside entities by prohibiting those who administer our elections from receiving private funding to conduct election activities. Transparency will also be improved by requiring Canvassing Board members’ names to be posted online. Also, the PCB requires two-factor authentication in order to change or update a voter’s registration by requiring a Florida Driver’s License number, the last four digits of a voter’s social security number, or a Florida ID card number.

Read the PCB at www.myfloridahouse.gov

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